



## **Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Legislative Wrap-Up**

Thursday, June 17, 2010  
Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Thank, you, Jack Camper, and your talented Board of Directors, for your hospitality and for the opportunity to speak with you today.

I know Rep. Vic Williams is here with us today and I would like to express my appreciation to him for his continued support during this past year and a half. Rep. Williams was supportive of my plans to turn Arizona around from the beginning.

He stood tall and supported budget reductions time and time again, and he was instrumental in sending Proposition 100 to the voters.

Thank you, Vic, and I look forward to seeing you back at the Capitol in January.

Today, I've come to tell you what was achieved in this past legislative session.

But, I've also come to tell you what we've achieved in the past 500 days since I took the oath of office as Governor.

The truth is, in the past 500 days, we've changed everything.

And, believe me, wholesale change is precisely what was needed.

We had to deal with the consequences of five high-rolling years before I took office, when the system grew government as large as possible.

I faced a state budget deficit of nearly five billion dollars across two fiscal years – and a federal government whose unfunded mandates and sweetheart deals were stealing Arizona's freedom and threatening to bankrupt our state.

We were careening toward a cliff; and some people wanted to step on the accelerator.

Well, I DIDN'T.

I knew we had to slam on the brakes, and steer away from the cliff.

And, that's exactly what we did.

We changed the size of government.

We changed the way government does business.

We changed our policies and our priorities and the direction of our state.

I think we ALL see it, we ALL feel it, we ALL know it.

This isn't the "CHANGE" that was in a campaign slogan.

This is change for the BETTER, change that's REAL.

We're solving problems and we're moving Arizona into its Second Century.

We're literally changing everything.

Our progress is indisputable, it is progress that is the result of hard work – men and women of good will coming together for the common good.

And, the winners are the people of Arizona.

The losers are the naysayers, the obstructionists, the pessimists, and those who prefer to divide us and tear us down rather than bring us together and move us forward.

Well, those people lost.

The rest of us won.

And the Arizona Comeback began.

I believe that comeback started in earnest on May 18<sup>th</sup> when voters approved Proposition 100, telling us our faith in them had been well placed.

They told us they understood the depth of the financial crisis in Arizona.

They told us they understood doing the RIGHT thing, meant doing the HARD thing. And, on May 18<sup>th</sup>, voters DID the hard thing.

They told us they did it for our educational system, for our universities and community colleges, for our public safety and for our most vulnerable.

I'm grateful to all who supported our efforts, but, I understand the honorable position of those who OPPOSED the temporary tax increase – including, perhaps, even some of you here today.

I think we all recognize that Proposition 100 isn't a cure-all.

Though we've streamlined and reduced the size of government more than at any time before in state history, we're still faced with difficult choices.

Even with Proposition 100, the state still faces a one billion dollar deficit going into fiscal year 2012, which without new action will continue to grow in FY 2013.

So, what are we doing about it?

Plenty.

In these past 500 days, we've permanently reduced state general fund spending by over two point two billion dollars and the state employee count by more than 10 percent.

Personnel expenditures are down by nearly twenty percent since the spending peak in 2008.

Earlier this week, my Commission on Privatization and Efficiency (COPE), established in January of this year, held a hearing to examine ways to streamline state government operations, soliciting ideas from the private sector, policy experts, and citizens.

Arizona citizens deserve the best and most effective government in return for their hard-earned tax dollars.

COPE was created to identify state services and agencies whose functions can be eliminated, consolidated, streamlined or outsourced to achieve greater operational efficiency in meeting the needs of our citizens.

The recommendations made by COPE will not be just another report put on the shelf to gather dust -- but will be aimed at right-sizing state government to meet fiscal realities.

The commission's initial report due at the end of July will focus on short term recommendations, while the final report, due at the end of December, will propose structural changes to position the state for long-term stability.

I'll implement their recommendation by executive action where possible and seek legislative authority for the rest of my FY 2012 budget.

We're already laser-focused on getting Arizona back on track -- bolstering our base industries -- advancing our competitive position in the global economy.

We attracted new companies to Arizona to create 25-hundred new jobs for Arizonans. And businesses across all sectors have added 25-thousand jobs since the job loss peak of December 2009.

I've invested in the people of Arizona by rejecting further sweeps to the state's job training fund and by dedicating ten million dollars in federal stimulus funding to see that Arizonans get back to work faster, with the skills they need to work in the jobs of the future.

We're overhauling the Department of Commerce, replacing it with a state economic development authority designed to help attract new companies and diversify job opportunities statewide.

I signed into law a financial incentive to small companies that are advancing research and development programs, facilitating the creation of high paying, high quality jobs in Arizona.

Because keeping the jobs we already HAVE in Arizona is as important to me as creating new jobs, we extended the property tax provisions of Arizona's Environmental Technology Assistance program until December 31, 2015.

My first official act as Governor was to issue a moratorium on rules, to reduce the regulatory burden on Arizona businesses.

I continued that progress by signing legislation that further advances our efforts to make rulemaking improvements.

We established a new individual and corporate income tax credit for research and development, production, and delivery system costs associated with solar liquid fuels, so Arizona is poised to capitalize on this emerging research and its potential subsequent technology.

And -- I know most of you know this -- I've been calling for tax reform since March 2009.

We must establish a more friendly tax code to retain existing employers, attract new investment capital and create high wage, sustainable jobs.

We must continue this work, and I'm committed to getting it done.

I support a responsible package to spur job creation and our state's economic recovery but it must be a package that the state can afford.

I look forward to working with you and legislators on a sensible jobs package that is affordable and linked to job creation.

I know some of you are interested in the State Compensation Fund, and I know legislative efforts were underway to wholly privatize the operations of the Fund. But, there were uncertainties about the investment of state monies into the fund during its lifetime.

So, Senate Bill 1045 extends the life of the Fund until July 1, 2012 and allows it to continue to offer worker's compensation insurance while transitioning from a state agency to a private mutual insurance company – and adds two new appointees to the Board.

From my first days in office as Governor, I've been demanding that Washington fulfill its primary obligation to the citizens of our state: to secure our southern border, to enhance the rule of law, and to protect Arizonans -- and ALL Americans -- from violence committed by organized crime syndicates, out-of-control drug cartels, violent human smugglers, and common criminals.

Legislation I signed into law -- Senate Bill 1070 -- does not regulate differently than current federal law, nor does it pre-empt federal law in any way.

There's been a lot of misinformation -- some of it intentional -- to fan the flames around SB 1070.

So, let me set the record straight, here and now:

No new or additional documents are required to visit Arizona.

The same documents that the federal government currently requires for legal immigrants are required under the state law.

The bill, supported by statewide law enforcement organizations, provides local sworn officers the same legal tools provided to federal authorities and their local law enforcement partners for many years.

And the boycotts?

I'm deeply disappointed by some – incredibly, even a few Arizonans -- who would suggest that additional economic penalties against our state are the solution.

How could punishing families and businesses large and small --- particularly the 200,000 hard-working families involved in the tourism industry --- be a solution or be viewed as constructive?

How could a state's enforcement of a misdemeanor offense that is copied VERBATIM from federal law be dismissed as hateful?

Respect for the rule of law means respect for EVERY law.

I believe every one of us wants to be safe, and I refuse to compromise on the protections of civil rights and public safety.

I will defend this law and I will NOT accept the notion that border security is a responsibility of the Border States.

I've developed a border surge strategy to protect Arizona and I've taken our case to Congress, to the President and to the nation.

In short, I'll continue to do everything in my power to protect this state.

No apologies.

No quitting.

No retreat.

And, I'll tell you something else.

We're not going to continue to pick up the tab.

We're now transferring back to the Federal Government non-violent criminal aliens housed in the Department of Corrections.

These transfers have saved the taxpayers well over thirteen million dollars this fiscal year and have helped alleviate prison overcrowding.

I'm also fighting ObamaCare and the eleven billion dollars it will cost Arizona over the next decade.

I told you we've changed our policies and our priorities throughout state government, and that includes strengthening Arizona's education system.

You know, education is what led me to run for public office years ago.

And ever since, I've been fighting to give families more opportunities to help their children learn.

In my State of the State address, I called for a series of reforms to both our K-12 and higher education systems.

The premise was simple: We must raise the bar on our expectations and not be afraid.

We must believe that all children can learn. They may have challenges and obstacles to overcome, but none of those circumstances can become excuses for a lack of learning in the classroom.

We must make every dollar count and every minute of instruction count.

The world will be demanding more from our students and we must increase our standards to be sure they are ready.

I'm confident that our children will rise to the challenge.

With those thoughts in mind, we had one of the most productive sessions ever for advancing reforms to our school system.

For starters, we now have a new user-friendly school labeling system, one that uses simple letter grades that everyone understands – A, B, C, D and F so parents can gauge how well their child's school is performing.

I also called for an end to 3rd grade social promotion, and we ended that. We now have -- new reading requirements for 3rd grade students to continue on to the 4th grade along with a requirement for written notification to parents of the new promotion requirements.

-- I called for opening the doors to all qualified citizens who want to teach our children -- and a new law now provides alternative certification options for individuals to become teachers.

-- Twenty eight thousand children participate in Arizona's individual scholarship tax credit program, allowing parents to send their children to their school of choice, and changes to that tax credit program have now been implemented, providing greater accountability for Arizona's tax credit scholarship programs.

And let me also quickly mention that we've made Arizona a safer place for our children and families.

-- We've strengthened laws allowing law enforcement to apprehend individuals who engage in human trafficking for sex purposes and we've provided better protection for minors who are being forced into child prostitution.

-- We've protected Second Amendment Rights -- expanding gun owner rights to carry firearms while respecting private property rights.

Now, I believe that is real conservatism -- conservatism that is pragmatic, sound, responsible, honest, tough, and truthful -- one which understands government is not the answer to all of our woes.

I will not let circumstances or politics -- or what's popular -- define me.

I will not let others tell you who I am.

The simple truth is, what it has always been: I am Jan Brewer, a conservative -- a pragmatic conservative.

I am Jan Brewer, the proud daughter of Wilford and Edna Drinkwine -- common Americans who worked hard, asked for nothing in return, and made silent sacrifices for the common good. They were the whole world to me -- my teachers, my guides, forever with me on every road and journey.

I am Jan Brewer -- a legislator, a county supervisor, a Secretary of State and a Governor who will always tell you the truth -- someone who always tries to do the right thing, no matter how hard the choices.

I am Jan Brewer, someone who believes the greatest things that a government can do for business are to create an environment of stability and predictability, work with balanced budgets, avoid greater debt, provide for a safe society, and foster an educated work force.

I am Jan Brewer, the Governor who changed everything about state government -- Its priorities -- Its spending habits -- Its size and its culture.

After all, Government is not a business. Businesses grow.

And, I'm in the business of SHRINKING government, making it leaner and more efficient.

The time in which we live has asked much of us; and while we have already tendered a great deal, those contributions are what citizenship requires, as we free ourselves to work, and earn a living, to build a business, to build a life that drinks in the bounty of this state and the beauty of its opportunity.



Arizona's spirit, and its great ideals, remind us that our blessings far surpass our challenges, and that our calling is to hold those blessings in sacred trust for a better life for the generations yet to come.

I invite you to join me in that calling as we journey together, one people, under God ... on the road less traveled.

May God bless you, your families and may God bless the great state of Arizona.

Thank you.